

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

### Listing of claims:

1.       **(Currently amended)** A method for precipitating a chitosan suitable for human consumption or biomedical applications consisting of: mixing in any order an aqueous acidic solution containing a chitosan polymer and a combination of at least two inorganic or organic salts, wherein said combination of salts is a combination of kosmotropic and chaotropic salts which are food-compatible or suitable for biomedical applications, wherein said inorganic or organic salts are present in an amount effective to salt out said chitosan polymer to form an aqueous composition which comprises at least said salted out chitosan polymer.
2.       **(Cancelled)**
3.       **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein said aqueous acidic solution has a pH between about 2 and about 6.
4.       **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein precipitation is carried out between about 4°C and about 55°C.
5.       **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein said inorganic or organic salt is selected from the group consisting of ammonium or sodium sulfate, sodium or potassium phosphates, sodium or potassium citrate, sodium tartrate, sodium malate, sodium nitrate, sodium lactate, sodium malonate, sodium succinate, sodium acetate, and sodium propionate.
6.       **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein said aqueous acidic solution is selected from the group consisting of acetic acid, lactic acid, malic acid and hydrochloric acid.
7. – 8. **(Cancelled)**
9.       **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the amount of chitosan precipitated is at least 90% of the amount of chitosan in solution.
10.      **(Cancelled)**

11. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein said chitosan polymer has a degree of acetylation of between about 0% and about 50%.

12. **(Cancelled)**

13. **(Withdrawn)** A chitosan preparation obtained by the method of claim 1.

14. **(Withdrawn)** The chitosan preparation of claim 13, wherein said preparation is suitable for human consumption and biomedical applications.

15. **(Withdrawn)** The chitosan preparation of claim 13, wherein said preparation is substantially free of chitosanase.

16. **(Withdrawn)** The chitosan preparation of claim 13, wherein said preparation is substantially free of salts.

17. **(Withdrawn)** The chitosan preparation of claim 12, wherein said chitosan has conserved its physicochemical properties after precipitation.

18. **(Withdrawn)** The chitosan preparation of claim 12, wherein said preparation is soluble in the aqueous acidic milieu of the stomach.

19. **(Withdrawn)** A chitosan preparation which:

- i) is substantially free of chitosanase;
- ii) is suitable for human consumption;
- iii) is soluble in an aqueous acidic milieu such as in the stomach; and
- iv) is substantially free of precipitating salts.